

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (original) A bed comprising:
a posterior bed support including a base, a posterior body portion coupled to the base, and a posterior support plate configured to be removably coupled to the posterior body portion and supported for sliding movement into the posterior body portion; and
an anterior bed support coupled to the posterior bed support, the anterior bed support including an anterior body portion, an anterior support plate configured to be removably coupled to the anterior body portion and supported for sliding movement into the anterior body portion, and a proning support surface coupled to the anterior support plate.
2. (original) The bed of claim 1, further comprising a mover configured to rotate the proning support surface about a longitudinal axis.
3. (original) The bed of claim 1, further comprising a patient support surface configured to be removably coupled to the posterior support plate.
4. (original) The bed of claim 1, wherein the posterior body portion includes a plurality of fluid passageways, and the posterior support plate includes a plurality of fluid passageways configured to communicate with the fluid passageways of the posterior body portion when the posterior support plate is coupled to the posterior body portion.
5. (original) The bed of claim 4, further comprising a fluid supply coupled to the plurality of fluid passageways of the posterior body portion.
6. (original) The bed of claim 1, wherein the posterior body portion includes spaced-apart inner side walls and side notches extending into the inner side walls, and the posterior support plate includes a central portion and spaced-apart outer lips coupled to the central portion, the outer lips of the posterior support plate being configured to slide through the notches of the posterior body portion.
7. (original) The bed of claim 6, wherein the anterior body portion includes spaced-apart inner side walls and side notches extending into the inner side walls, and the anterior support plate includes a central portion and spaced-apart outer lips coupled to the central portion, the outer lips of the anterior support plate being configured to slide through the notches of the anterior body portion.

8. (currently amended) A bed comprising:
a bed support including a base, a body portion coupled to the base, and a support plate configured to be removably coupled to the body portion, the body portion including spaced-apart inner side walls and a guide configured to operably couple with the support plate in order to guide the support plate in sliding movement into the body portion;
the guide including side notches extending into the inner side walls;
the support plate including a central portion and spaced-apart outer lips coupled to the central portion, the outer lips of the support plate being configured to slide through the notches of the body portion; and
a patient support surface configured to be releasably coupled to the support plate.
9. (canceled)
10. (currently amended) ~~The bed of claim 8,~~ A bed comprising:
a bed support including a base, a body portion coupled to the base, and a support plate configured to be removably coupled to the body portion, the body portion including a guide configured to operably couple with the support plate in order to guide the support plate in sliding movement into the body portion;
wherein the body portion includes a plurality of fluid passageways, and the support plate includes a plurality of fluid passageways configured to communicate with the fluid passageways of the body portion when the support plate is coupled to the body portion;
and
a patient support surface configured to be releasably coupled to the support plate.
11. (original) The bed of claim 10, wherein the plurality of fluid passageways of the body portion and the plurality of passageways of the support plate when in fluid communication define a plurality of pathways, the pathways configured to be uninterrupted when the support plate is coupled to the body portion and is slidably moved relative to the body portion.
12. (original) The bed of claim 11, further comprising flexible hoses which couple the passageways of the body portion to the passageways of the support plate.
13. (original) The bed of claim 10, further comprising a fluid supply coupled to the fluid passageways of the body portion.

14. (original) The bed of claim 8, wherein the support plate is configured to slidably move relative to the base portion when coupled to the base portion in order to position a patient supported on the patient support surface.

15. (original) The bed of claim 8, further comprising a mover configured to rotate the patient support surface about a longitudinal axis.

16. (original) A bed comprising:
a posterior bed support; and
an anterior bed support coupled to the posterior bed support, the anterior bed support including an anterior body portion, an anterior support plate configured to be removably coupled to the anterior body portion and supported for sliding movement into the anterior body portion, and a proning support surface coupled to the anterior support plate, the anterior body portion including a guide configured to operably couple with the anterior support plate in order to guide the anterior support plate in sliding movement.

17. (currently amended) The bed of claim 16, wherein the anterior body portion includes spaced-apart inner side walls, the guide includes side notches extending into the inner side walls, and the anterior support plate includes a central portion and spaced-apart outer lips coupled to the central portion, the outer lips of the anterior support plate being configured to slide through the notches of the anterior body portion.

18. (original) The bed of claim 16, wherein the anterior body portion includes a passageway, the anterior support plate includes a passageway, and the proning support surface includes a passageway, the passageways of the anterior body portion, the anterior support plate, and the proning support surface cooperating to define a fluid pathway when the anterior body portion and the proning support surface are coupled to the anterior support plate.

19. (original) The bed of claim 16, further comprising a mover configured to rotate the proning support surface about a longitudinal axis.

20. (original) The bed of claim 16, wherein the proning support surface includes a mattress and a proning platform coupled to the mattress.